

January 12, 2004

CDPR Sinkyone Wilderness Park
Wheeler Townsite
Whitehorn, California
Case No. 1TMC032

Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum hydrocarbon discharges from underground storage tanks.

Comment Period ends February 12, 2004.

Problem Description: The Wheeler Townsite is located within Sinkyone Wilderness Park in Mendocino County, approximately 11 miles west of Leggett, California, at the convergence of Jackass Creek and the north fork of Jackass Creek. Jackass Creek drains into a tidal flat that is adjacent to rocky cliffs bordering the Pacific Ocean several hundred yards from the town site. This site is currently accessible only by dirt roads that are unusable during the rainy season. Petroleum underground storage tanks (USTs) were used when the town was inhabited in the 1950s.

USTs were removed from three separate areas in the town site in 1988. Each of the areas was near the creeks. At Site 1, no contamination was found in the soil under the UST. At Site 2, where two tanks were pulled, soil samples from under the USTs contained up to 2,200 parts per million (ppm) TPH-diesel. One of the USTs at Site 2 contained product. At Site 3, approximately 0.1 ppm BTEX was detected in soil samples from under the UST.

Actions Completed: Soil borings were drilled at Site 2 and Site 3 to investigate the extent of soil and groundwater contamination. At Site 2, TPH-diesel and TPH-gasoline were detected in soil up to 2,100 ppm and 2,600 ppm, respectively, and in groundwater up to 5,600,000 ppb and 71,000 ppb, respectively. Soil contamination was not detected at Site 3. Groundwater samples from Site 3 were contaminated with up to 1000 parts per billion (ppb) TPH-diesel.

Groundwater monitoring wells were installed at Site 2. From 1991 to 2003, the monitoring wells were intermittently sampled. No BTEX or fuel oxygenates have been detected in the monitoring wells. The concentrations of TPH-diesel and TPH-gasoline have declined significantly over time. The maximum concentrations detected in the last sampling event were 230 ppb TPH-diesel and 120 ppb TPH-gasoline.

Initial creek samples, taken in 1989, from immediately downstream of Site 2 and Site 3 contained 130 and 90 ppb TPH-diesel, respectively. Contamination was not detected in any subsequent surface water samples (taken in 1990, 1991, 1996, 2002, and 2003).

Proposed Action: No further action related to the petroleum discharges from the underground storage tanks is proposed once the monitoring wells are properly decommissioned.

Unless comments are received with significant new information, Regional Water Board staff plans to concur with no further action upon conclusion of the comment period. Please contact Craig Hunt at (707) 570-3767 with any questions or comments.